Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SSM-03 L-03 EUR-12 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /077 W

-----114082 191316Z/46

R 191235Z JUL 77 FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0948 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EWWT, EAID, EG

SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA PORT CONGESTION

REF: (A) ALEXANDRIA 0616, (B) ALEXANDRIA 0627

- CARGO CONGESTION ON AND BESIDE SILOS PIERS WAS FURTHER REDUCED OVER WEEKEND, BUT POTENTIAL FOR PROBLEMS REMAINS.
- 2. IN ADDITION TO ALMOST 100,000 TONS OF GRAIN ON WAITING VESSELS LISTED IN PARA 4 OF ALEX 0616, TWO NEW ARRIVALS HAVE JUST TAKEN PLACES OF AMERICAN SHIPS VIRGO AND SANTA ANA. ONE, GREEK FLAG AEGIS BRAVERY IS SHOWN IN LLOYD'S SHIPPING INDEX AS HAVING LOADED AT MONTREAL (SO GRAIN IS PRESUMABLY CANADIAN). ACCORDING TO PRESS, SHE ARRIVED ALEXANDRIA 15 JULY, WELL AFTER WAITING SHIPS WITH PL-480 CARGO.
- 3. SECOND, SWEDISH FLAG BALTIC WASA WAS INDICATED AS LEAVING CHICAGO 14 JUNE (BUT LATER LLOYD'S REPORT SHOWS HER LEAVING QUEBEC ON 28 JUNE), SHE MAY HAVE PL-480 GRAIN ON BOARD.
- 4. BUT HOPEFUL NEWS WAS THAT THREE OF SHIPS CITED ALEX $0616~\mathrm{HAVE}$ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY HANDLED THAN USUAL BY BARGE UNLOADING AT HARBOR ANCHOR AND AS OF 19 JULY WERE DOWN TO 4500 TONS ABOARD SS YELLOWSTONE, 4,000 TONS ABOARD SS AEGIS BRAVERY AND ABOUT 1100 TONS ABOARD SS CAPTAIN YANNIS. THEREFORE MUCH OF THEIR CARGO WAS EITHER ASHORE FOR TRUCKS OR EN ROUTE CAIRO IN RIVER BARGES AND NOT RPT NOT TOTALLY A THREAT TO PIER SPACE.

- 5. PRIVATE SHIPPING SOURCES HAVE, HOWEVER, TOLD US THAT ABOUT 150,000 TONS IS DUE NEXT MONTH. IF ARRIVALS ARE NOT TOO CLOSELY SCHEDULED, AS HAD BEEN CASE THIS MONTH, AVAILABLE TRANSPORT CAN HANDLE THAT. NEVERTHELESS, SAME SOURCES ARE STILL YELLING FOR MORE TRANSPORT. FYI MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT DID ORGANIZE IN LAST FEW DAYS CONSIDERABLE RAIL TRANSPORT WHICH NOW IN PORT AND ABOUT TO BE LOADED. END FYI.
- 6. MY CONCERN OF ALEX 616 THAT CRISIS WAS AT STAGE EMBASSY MIGHT THINK OF DISCUSSING TRANSPORT PROBLEM WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY MODIFIED. CONGEN AND USAID OFFICER ASSIGNED ALEXANDRIA WILL MONITOR SITUATION ON DAILY BASIS FOR NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.
 CHASE

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